

A NAME CHANGE IN THE GENUS *ACMENA* DC. (MYRTACEAE)

by

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ABSTRACT

Guymer, G. P. & Hyland, B. P. M. A name change in the genus *Acmena* DC. (Myrtaceae). *Muelleria* 6(6): 437-438 (1988). — The new combination *Acmena ingens* (F. Muell. ex C. Moore) Guymer & Hyland, based on *Nelitris ingens* F. Muell. ex C. Moore, is made for the species which has been known as *Acmena brachyandra* (Maiden & Betche) Merr. & Perry (basionym *Eugenia brachyandra* Maiden & Betche).

NOMENCLATURE

Acmena ingens (F. Muell. ex C. Moore) Guymer & Hyland, comb. nov.

BASIONYM: *Nelitris ingens* F. Muell. ex C. Moore, Cat. Nat. Industrial Products New South Wales, Int. Exhib. Commissioners, Sydney 48 (1861). TYPE: Richmond River, in 1861?, *C. Moore 19* (HOLOTYPE: MEL 60948. ISOTYPE: K).

Memecylon cerasiforme Nilson, Timber Trees New S. Wales 98 (1884) as “cerasiformis” nom. illeg., non *M. cerasiforme* Kurz. TYPE: “brush forests, near banks of creeks, on the Richmond River”, not located.

Memecylon australe C. Moore in Moore & Betche, Handb. Fl. New S. Wales 208 (1893) nom. illeg., non *M. australe* F. Muell. ex Triana. — *Acmena australis* L. Johnson, Contrib. New S. Wales Natl Herb. 3: 100 (1962). TYPE: “Upper Clarence and Richmond River”, not located.

Eugenia brachyandra Maiden & Betche, Proc. Linn. Soc. New S. Wales 23: 15 (1898). — *Acmena brachyandra* (Maiden & Betche) Merr. & Perry, J. Arnold Arb. 19: 17 (1938), synon. nov. LECTOTYPE: (fide Hyland 1983): Tintenbar, *W. Baeuerlen* [NSW 136991a] (NSW). SYNTYPES: Ballina, *W. Baeuerlen* [NSW 136990] (NSW); north-coast line, Queensland, *F. M. Bailey* s.n. (NSW).

During examination of specimens of *Decaspermum* J. & G. Forster by the senior author at the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) a specimen of *Acmena* DC. and an accompanying letter by J. H. Maiden to F. J. H. Mueller were discovered. Maiden's letter of 10 March 1893 documented the nomenclature of the plant described later by Maiden & Betche (1898) as *Eugenia brachyandra*. On page 4 of his letter Maiden provides a copy of a description of *Nelitris ingens* F. Muell. ex C. Moore, which was given in Moore's “Woods Indigenous to the Northern Districts of the Colony collected by Mr Charles Moore” in the “Catalogue of the Natural and Industrial Products of New South Wales; with a map and introductory account of its population, commerce and general resources” (London International Exhibition, 1862: London).

This publication has been examined at the Library, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and *Nelitris ingens* is described on page 28 of the catalogue. However, there is an earlier edition of this catalogue published in Sydney in 1861 by the International Exhibition Commissioners entitled “Catalogue of the Natural and Industrial Products of New South Wales, exhibited in the School of Arts by the International Exhibition Commissioners, Sydney, October 1861”. A copy of this earlier catalogue is also held at Kew and once formed part of W. J. Hooker's library.

In his paper “Woods from the Northern Districts of the Colony, collected by Mr. Charles Moore” in the 1861 catalogue Moore provides the following entry for *Nelitris ingens*: “xix. *Nelitris ingens*, F. Muell. Myrtaceae. Cherry [local name]. Cobun Bun [Aboriginal name]. Richmond River [habitat]. This singularly handsome tree occurs on nearly all the branches of the Richmond, and always on its immediate

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banks; it is chiefly remarkable for its bright red Guava like fruit, which is borne in terminal bunches in great quantities; fruit edible but astringent; timber not used". This name is validly published under the 1983 International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and is legitimate. There is no doubt that it applies to the species which has been known as *Acmena brachyandra* (see Hyland (1983) for revision of *Acmena*). Furthermore, a fruiting specimen of this species collected by C. Moore from the Richmond River and labelled "19. *Nelitris ? ingens*" [in Mueller's hand] is held at MEL and a duplicate of it is at K. The K specimen is labelled "Northern Woods N.S.W. No. 19 *Nelitris ingens* Muelr. Hab. Richmond River". In the 1862 catalogue reproduction of the description of *Nelitris ingens* two minor typographical errors were corrected, viz. "F. Muelr." to "F. Muell." and "Guava like" to "guava-like".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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REFERENCES

- Hyland, B. P. M. (1983). A revision of *Syzygium* and allied genera (Myrtaceae) in Australia. *Aust. J. Bot. Suppl. Ser.* No. 9.
- Maiden, J. H. & Betche, E. (1898). Descriptions of four new species of New South Wales plants. *Proc. Linn. Soc. New S. Wales* 22: 15-19.

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